

57. A recording device according to Claim 45, further comprising:
authentication information storage means for storing authentication
information necessary for changing the attribute information; and
input means for inputting authentication information,
wherein attribute information recorded in said detachable memory is
permitted to be changed when authentication information is input by said input means.

REMARKS

Claims 13 to 15, 17, 18, 21 to 40 and 45 to 52 are pending in the subject application, the independent claims being Claims 13, 14, 17, 21, 27, 33, 37, 45 and 49. Claims 53 to 56 have been cancelled. Claims 13, 14, 15, 45 and 49 have been amended. In the Official Action dated March 12, 2002, Claims 13 to 15, 17, 18, 21 to 40 and 45 to 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,899,581 (Kawamura) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,796,428 (Matsumoto). Claim 57 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as unpatentable over the Kawamura '581 patent in view of the Matsumoto '428 patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,737,491 (Allen). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 53 to 56 have been cancelled, and Claims 13 to 15, 45 and 49 have been amended herein even more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention.

The present invention relates to a novel recording device and method. In one aspect, as recited in Claim 13, the recording device comprises constituting method retrieving means for retrieving, from a memory detachable from the recording device, when the memory is attached to said recording device, constituting method information related to at least one of an image data file and a voice data file, where the constituting method information comprises user information exclusive to the user. The device further comprises mode setting means for setting a photographing recording mode, and file name determining means for automatically determining a file name of image data or voice data according to information selected depending on a photographing recording mode set by the mode setting means from the user exclusive information retrieved by the constituting method retrieving means, during a recording operation of the image data or voice data, where the image data or voice data is recorded in the detachable memory holding the constituting method information.

Claims 14, 17, 21, 27, 33, 37, 45 and 49 recite similar features with respect to a recording device or method.

In each aspect, an advantage inherent in the structure or method is that attribute information exclusive to the user may be stored in each respective, detachable recording medium, and can be changed for each detachable recording media, when plural users share an operational apparatus. Thus, each user can manage his/her voice or image files without interference by other users. Moreover, multiple attribute information for respective multiple users, does not have to be distributed to and stored in multiple storage media or operational apparatuses to provide service for multiple users.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Kawamura '581 patent relates to a photographing-mode-dependent image data recording method in a digital camera using hierarchical storage to record still images at a different level than sequential images, and discloses a photographing system that adds externally input photographer information. However, Applicant submits that the Kawamura '581 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above discussed features of the present invention. Rather, Applicant submits that the Kawamura '581 patent merely discloses a system in which a file name and directory are made in accordance with a selected photographing mode, where the form of the attribute information is predetermined as a form peculiar to the device. Nowhere does the Kawamura '581 patent disclose or suggest at least the recited features relating to user attribute information prerecorded in a detachable memory or recording media, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

The Matsumoto '428 patent relates to an electronic photography system, and discloses a system including an information inputting device for adding attribute data to an image data. However, Applicant submits that the Matsumoto '428 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above discussed features of the present invention. Nor is the Matsumoto '428 patent believed to add anything to the Kawamura '581 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

Nowhere is the prior art of record understood to disclose or suggest the feature of recording generated information in the same recording medium from which pre-recorded attribute information is retrieved.

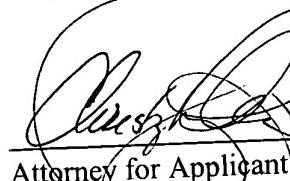
For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 13, 14, 17, 21, 27, 33 and 37 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 18, 22 to 26, 28 to 31, 34 to 36 and 38 to 40 depend from Claims 14, 21, 27, 33 and 37, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional feature in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right.

Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested. Applicant believes that the present Amendment is fully responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the Application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience respectfully are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

13. (Three Times Amended) A recording device comprising:

for holding, in] a memory detachable from said recording device, when the memory is attached to said recording device, constituting method information related to at least one of an image data file and a voice data file, the [said] constituting method information comprising user information exclusive to the user [and recorded in the detachable memory in advance of a photographing operation];

mode setting means for setting a photographing recording mode; and file name determining means for automatically determining a file name of image data or voice data according to information selected depending on a photographing recording mode set by said mode setting means from the user exclusive information retrieved by [held in] said constituting method retrieving [holding] means, during a recording operation of the image data or voice data, the image data or voice data being recorded in the detachable memory holding the constituting method information.

14. (Three Times Amended) A recording device comprising:
constituting method setting means for setting constituting method
information related to at least one of an image data file and a voice data file, in advance of
a recording operation of the image data file or voice data file, the constituting method
information comprising user information exclusive to the user;
constituting method retrieving [holding] means for retrieving, from [for
holding, in] a memory detachable from said recording device, when the memory in
attached to said recording device, the constituting method information stored in the
memory, [set by said constituting method setting means,] the constituting method
information being related to at least one of an image data file and a voice data file [being
recorded in the detachable memory in advance of the recording operation of the image data
file or voice data file]; and
file name determining means for automatically determining a file name of
the image data or voice data according to the user exclusive information retrieved by [held
in] said constituting method retrieving [holding] means, during the recording operation of
the image data or voice data, the image data or voice data being recorded in the detachable
memory holding the constituting method information.

15. (Twice Amended) A recording device according to claim 14,
wherein said constituting method setting means is included in an external device, and
wherein said constituting method setting means communicates with said external device to

set the constituting method information in said constituting method retrieving [holding] means.

45. (Twice Amended) A recording device for recording at least one of image data and voice data in a detachable recording medium, comprising:
means for generating image data or voice data to be recorded;
means for retrieving from the detachable recording medium attribute information when the recording medium is attached to said recording device and the attribute information is pre-recorded on the detachable recording medium; and
means for recording the attribute information retrieved by said retrieving means from the recording medium that relates to the image data or voice data generated by said generating means.

49. (Amended) A recording method for recording at least one of image data and voice data in a detachable recording medium, comprising the steps of:
generating image data or voice data to be recorded;
retrieving from the detachable recording medium attribute information when receiving the recording medium and the attribute information is pre-recorded in the detachable recording medium [pre-recorded in the detachable recording medium]; and

recording the attribute information retrieved from the detachable recording medium in said retrieving step that relates to the image data or voice data generated in said generating step.

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